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## 2003 Armor Conference:

# The Cutting Edge to Victory — On the Ground for America

The 2003 Armor Conference is appropriately titled, "The Cutting Edge to Victory — On the Ground for America." This great event is rapidly approaching and the Fort Knox team is in its final planning stages of this annual gathering. For the past several years, the Armor Center has been the focal point for Tankers and Troopers Army-wide to conduct open and frank discussions on issues affecting mounted warriors. In keeping with tradition, we have put together an amazing and packed program. This year, we have an all-star group of speakers addressing the current and the future mounted force, Armor and Cavalry's role in the Global War on Terrorism and Combat Operations in Iraq, Army Transformation, and other critical issues. I promise you this will be a dynamic event!

The 2003 Armor Conference will have the usual mix of business and pleasure venues that make it *THE CONFERENCE* to attend. The Armor Trainer Update will begin the Armor Conference and is scheduled for 18 and 19 May. Armor and Cavalry leaders and trainers from Army National Guard and Army Reserve components attend this event and share current information on programs, priorities, and initiatives effecting the Armor and Cavalry Force. Along with the Armor Train-

er Update, the Fort Knox G3, Directorate of Plans, Training, and Mobilization, will launch the Annual External Unit Scheduling Conference on 19 May. Scheduled at the Armor Inn, this program affords Reserve, National Guard, External Active Army units, and other service branches the opportunity to register to use some of the best training facilities the Army offers. In addition to the golf outing and banquets, this year we have added a Command Sergeant Major/Sergeant Major social. Defense industry companies will showcase the latest military technology, and static displays will be up from 19 May through 21 May. I will also present the 9th Annual General Frederick Franks Jr. award on 21 May.

The Armor Conference has proven to be a dynamic environment to field thoughts, questions, and solutions to everyday challenges that soldiers and units face across the operational spectrum. This year's conference is especially important, as the Armor Center refocuses on accomplishing CORE missions to standard. USAARMC prioritizes missions and allocates resources to our highest priority missions in accordance with the clear guidance given by the Training and Doctrine Commander that we must "live within our

means." As we define what we can continue to do to standard, we are also defining what we can no longer afford to do. It is critical that we communicate these changes to the force to develop and refine an Armor and Cavalry plan that holistically ensures the Mounted Force will remain viable as the decisive maneuver force today and in the future. My primary venue for this effort will be the brigade and regimental commander's meeting on 19 May. I am eager to hear your spot reports from the field on effective areas of our training and support and also where we need to do better.

Throughout the world, Tankers and Troopers are hard at work protecting our nation. They deserve our best training, well trained leaders, and battle-proven equipment to provide them the best opportunity to fight decisively and win our nation's wars.

I encourage you to attend this event. Visit our site at [www.knox.army.mil/arconf/](http://www.knox.army.mil/arconf/). I guarantee that attending the 2003 Armor Conference at Fort Knox will give you a better understanding of the challenges we face, and a shared vision of where the Mounted Force should focus its efforts.

Forge the Thunderbolt!